CLAIMS

1. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers with measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, and (b) fibers of a second type selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.

2. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the measurable amount of said at least one extractable agent is less than about 0.1 weight percent.

3. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 10:90 and about 90:10.

4. The filter material in accordance with claim 3, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about 80:20.

5. The filter material in accordance with claim 4, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about 70:30.

6. The filter material in accordance with claim 5, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about 60:40.

7. The filter material in accordance with claim 6, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and the second type of fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about 55:45.

8. The filter material in accordance with claim 7, wherein the blend comprises about 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent of the second type of fibers.

9. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about 80:20.

10. The filter material in accordance with claim 9, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about 70:30.

11. The filter material in accordance with claim 10, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about 60:40.

12. The filter material in accordance with claim 11, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and acrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about 55:45.

13. The filter material in accordance with claim 12, wherein the blend comprises about 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent acrylic fibers.

14. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 20:80 and about 80:20.

15. The filter material in accordance with claim 14, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 30:70 and about 70:30.

16. The filter material in accordance with claim 15, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 40:60 and about 60:40.

17. The filter material in accordance with claim 16, wherein the blend contains polypropylene fibers and modacrylic fibers in a ratio between about 45:55 and about 55:45.

18. The filter material in accordance with claim 17, wherein the blend comprises about 50 weight percent polypropylene fibers and about 50 weight percent modacrylic fibers.

19. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers comprises acrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.

20. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers comprises acrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent.

21. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers comprises modacrylic fibers which are substantially free of extractable agents.

22. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second type of fibers comprises modacrylic fibers which contain measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent.

23. The filter material in accordance with claim 1, wherein the polypropylene fibers are not cleaned to remove said at least one extractable agent.

24. A filter material comprising a blend of (a) polypropylene fibers, and (b) fibers of a second type with measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof, said fibers being selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic.

25. The filter material in accordance with claim 21, wherein the polypropylene fibers have measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof.

26. A method of filtering particulate from a gas stream, the method comprising:

(a) blending polypropylene fibers having measurable amounts of at least one extractable agent on outer surfaces thereof with fibers of a second type selected from a group consisting of acrylic and modacrylic to form a filter material; and

(b) disposing said filter material in said gas stream without cleaning said at least one extractable agent from the outer surfaces of the fibers.